

many a sorrow which it will comfort, many a weariness which will find there the repose refused by the hard old world, while thru-out the long night of our peaceful slumber God shall watch over us out of his stars, until the dawning of the glad, new day.

Some Features of Modern War

Civilized warfare is so anomalous that it furnishes a curious and interesting study. We see two armies confront each other with deadly weapons, and engage in a spirit of reckless bravery, each side striving to outdo the other in deeds of gallantry, and particularly putting forth every effort to kill and maim as many of the enemy as possible. But presto, as soon as a man is down and in the hands of the enemy, tho he may be wounded so desperately as to give little hope of life, he is immediately carried to a hospital and every effort of skill and care made to restore him to soundness and health. The enemy employs skillful surgeons, expensive hospitals and careful nurses to wait on him, and his wounds are healed. The only consistent war that we know anything about is between savages and barbarians, where the wounded are of course speedily dispatched. That's what they got to fighting for, and it is inconceivable to the barbaric mind why the business should not proceed to its logical end by all or any methods, fair or foul. The civilized aspects of war between enlightened nations constitutes a protest in itself against all war. This it is barbaric to injure non-combatants. A wounded soldier is recognized as a non-combatant, and he therefore comes within the pale of protection which civilization imposes. It is only a short step forward to the logical conclusion that it is absurd to wound a man at all, and therefore incur the expense of nursing him back to health and life. It is of course beyond the reach of human power and skill to restore the dead, those who have been killed by shot and shell, but supposing that this could also be done, the same dictate of civilization which compels the tender care of the wounded would also compel the reviving of the dead, and war would then appear to be just as ridiculous as it really is. The attempt to civilize war is very much like arraying an African savage in an evening dress suit, and turning him loose in an elegant ball room among refined and fashionable people. Beneath all his fine toggery would still beat the heart of the savage.

Brief Notes

Some people who are hunting a revival need to be hunted by one.

We doubt very much whether a genuine revival can be "worked up." It is an error of direction.

A revival is like the light; remove the impediments, and it will flow in of its own accord. Find out what's in the way.

The best revivals come by inoculation. Fill up yourself with it, get it in your bones, and it will inevitably become contagious in the community.

Organize! Organize! Organize! But by all means when you have completed the organization, and all the parts thereof are ready for duty, build a fire in it, and let the dead thing be filled with life and power.

Soul saving is just as much a science, or rather a fine art, as any other that we know anything about. We mean of course as to human instrumentality in the great work. The trouble is, that there are more bunglers than artists, and the wonder is that universal awkwardness and stupidity accomplishes as much as it does.

How can a man decide a question where the distinction is well nigh invisible to the eye, or to the understanding? The majority cannot, and that is one reason for so much hesitation in the matter of religion. When the average unconverted man can only see varying shades of difference between the world and the church, he is apt to find his serious reflections end in confusion.

Do you know that the world is not straining its eyes toward heaven to see Christ, and to get an idea of what he is like? It has a much shorter method. It is looking at you and me, who profess to be Christ's and to be more or less like him. The rough old world neither prays, nor reads the Bible, nor indulges in the intricate processes of metaphysical speculations. It simply looks at the picture, at the reflection, at the human transcript of Christ, and it looks with a most keen and penetrating glance. How much are we therefore honoring and setting forth the Master?

A man who had his shoulder blade and collar bone removed is to have each replaced by one made of aluminum. Science may aspire to make a man out and out, after awhile. What if it could replace at weak will, a broken purpose, a shattered reputation, a fractured character? There's lots of this kind of work to do.

The most brilliant object in the western heavens is the planet Venus, companion piece to the earth, which is now approaching us rapidly, and growing more and more beautiful. Much speculation has been indulged as to whether this planet is inhabited. Would God make so splendid a mansion to remain empty?

The expulsion of polygamist Roberts from Congress is an event which marks the progress and vigor of our civilization. It is impossible to plant an oriental barbarism in the rich soil of our national virtue. Roberts returns to the place whence he came, pursued by the scorn of a great people, and the iniquity of Utah receives a stinging rebuke from which it will never recover.

A woman in a New York tenement weeps over a dead cat for ten days, and even then was compelled to bury it. Conduct of this kind excites our disgust, but it is perhaps possible that there are dead things in our houses and in our lives which ought to be buried. Dead love, dead hope, dead faith, dead works, dead religion.—how about some of these things, or all of them?

It was discovered after several battles had been fought in South Africa that the English rifles were sighted wrong, that is to say, the sights were misleading. Is there a similar reason for the bad marksmanship of some preachers? The sermon hardly ever seems to hit anybody. There is much noise of the heavy artillery, and a wild shelling of the woods' but very little execution. Perhaps your sights are on crooked, brother. See how that is. If every sermon went straight to the mark, the devil would have to enlarge his ambulance outfit. He would be routed, horse and dragons, and heaven and earth would ring with the victory of the saints.

The Chinese Ambassador to England, Lo Fing Loh, was converted to a belief in the superiority and divine origin of Christianity by a visit to the Muller

Orphanages at Bristol, England. He will not say, however, that he is going to embrace Christianity as a personal religion. There comes the rub. Such a step would probably put an end to his political career, a sacrifice which he will not make unless he is truly converted. There are plenty of people who believe in the divine origin of Christianity, who nevertheless are not Christians.

A bill has been favorably reported in Congress removing disabilities in the matter of pensions from Confederate soldiers who fought in the Spanish-American war. Their services in the latter instance blotted out their transgressions in the former, which has a parallel in the experience of the Christian, who after his conversion finds himself relieved from the disabilities which he incurred while a rebel. The former transgression is not remembered against him at all, and he writes a new record on a clean sheet.

An adventist in Orwell, Pa., tried recently to raise the dead. He said that God told him in a dream to do so, and he shouted over a corpse in a crowded church, "Young man, I say unto thee, arise." The young man failed to arise, but the undertaker arose and hustled the bogus resurrector out of the building. The tendency to insane vagaries and bald imposture is inherent in some natures, and we need to be on our guard against it, in others, and in ourselves, too. Beware of modern miracle workers, religious cranks, pious fads, and a lot of other rubbish of the same stripe.

The young Chinese Emperor is said to have been compelled to abdicate his throne. Perhaps it is a pity for him, and perhaps it isn't. Oriental thrones and crowns have a way of going empty in the dark, leaving only a red stain. But there are men and women everywhere who cast crowns away, and abdicate thrones, not because they are compelled to do so, but because they choose. What a royal heritage we lose sometimes thru sheer carelessness. Yes, perhaps we are even compelled to abdicate, but we let the world or the devil do the compelling. "Let no man take thy crown."

Bishop Satterlee of the Protestant Episcopal church wants a national Cathedral at Washington, and it is said that ground has already been purchased for its erection. Such a structure as would be entitled to be called a national cathedral would have to cost millions of dollars. It would serve to beautify the Capital, but when it comes to beautifying character or adorning religion, many a little church around the corner will lead it by a long way. We must be coming back to the spectacular religion of the middle ages, the era of enormous and magnificent cathedrals.

A wealthy Chinaman died in this country recently, and his friends made a great funeral for him. Among other ceremonies, the priest wrote out a fine certificate of character, handed it around for the approval of the mourners, and then solemnly burnt it over the coffin. The idea is that it will thus accompany the deceased into the other world, and give him a favorable recommendation to the people over there. Perhaps there are some people more civilized than the Chinese who would like to have their characters, or at any rate their records, burned over their coffins,

not that the document might accompany them into the other world but that it might be blotted out. There is a way in which our entrance into the next world may be rendered not only successful, but triumphant. Take along with you the recommendation, the character, the imputed righteousness of Christ.

A Judge in one of our northern cities fined a man only six cents for profanity, because he spoke in a low tone. The idea was that not many people heard him, which in the opinion of the judge made the oath less heinous. This is a solomonic decision truly. We doubt whether the same principle will be operative in the last court, for in God's ears the smallest whispers of iniquity roar loud as reverberating thunder. It is the quality of the act, not the manner in which it was performed, which will count in the decision of absolute equity.